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manuscript letters from the latter storehouse appear, but the mass of material has been printed, and is available in any library even to the casual reader. The Wilderness Road coincided in its upper parts with the road leading to the settlements on the upper Tennessee. Might not a search of documents at Knoxville and Nashville supply such additional information as would make a real contribution to knowledge without detracting from the novelty and attractiveness which thus far characterize the series?

EDWIN ERLE SPARKS.

A History of the British Army. By THE HONORABLE J. W. FORTESCUE. Second Part—from the close of the Seven Years' War to the second Peace of Paris. Vol. III., 1763–1793. (London: Macmillan and Company, Limited; New York: The Macmillan Company. 1902. Pp. xxviii, 621.)

THIS volume, carrying the history of the British army through the period of the American Revolution, might be very useful to the student of that war, were it not for its spirit of unfairness toward the American cause, which is shown at every opportunity. That the story of the Revolution can be written from the point of view of an English Tory without outraging the sympathies of a fair-minded American has been signally demonstrated by Lecky, while Trevelyan satisfies the unreasoning patriotism of the veriest Jingo. In this book we have an English historian writing in the spirit of Lord George Germain or poor old pensioned Dr. Johnson.

In the period between the close of the French and Indian War and the opening of the Revolution, he is more aware of the agitation than of its causes. It "is always a dangerous period," he writes suggestively, "when politicians and agitators, who have been long thrust to the wall by generals and admirals, return again to their places with louder voices and enhanced importance." Again and again the author puts emphasis upon the agitation, while ignoring or belittling the causes of it. A few quotations will best give the flavor of the book. It is the malicious spirit of the narrator which offends, rather than the fact, as in the following sentence: "The mob of Boston had long ago learned to meet any unpopular measure with lawless violence, and their Congregational ministers to search the Scriptures for their encouragement." Of the "Boston Massacre" he says, "The blame for the bloodshed rests wholly with the magistrates of Boston . . ." Of the trial he writes with a sneer, "this . . . was always paraded as a specimen of the impartiality of American justice." On the influence of local government he comments, "The machinery of municipal administration permitted the assembling of mobs under the name of town-meetings, whenever the agitators might require them."

The intolerant tone often makes even truth offensive, as in the following passage: "A stream of trash about chains and slavery, hirelings of oppression, brutal instruments of tyranny . . . flowed inexhaustibly from the tongues of orators and the pens of pamphleteers." Again, an

uncharitable interpretation of patriot utterances is due to an entire misunderstanding of actual conditions. One must know very little of the slow growth of the desire for independence who could write: "The state papers and remonstrances, many of them very ably drafted, with their pretence of humility and submission, their grave and ceremonious insolence, and their frequent shameless perversion of facts . . . the unblushing partiality of juries . . . all these things by long tradition came quite naturally to the people of Boston."

Mr. Fortescue is quite as perverse in dealing with the first Continental Congress. He does not even grant them honesty, but says, "It was a curious body, and to judge from its first action, not a very straightforward one." After reviewing their papers, he writes, "These productions, though on the face of the matter not admirable even as specimens of lying, are remarkable as indications of the early hunger of the Americans after Canada."

In the treatment of the war itself, the campaigns, battles, and engagements, the author is more even-handed, but he is ever ready to accept the most absurd newspaper canards derogatory to American humanity. He tells, for example, the old story about the Americans' scalping some of the dead and wounded British soldiers at Concord bridge. The author's comments and criticisms upon the campaigns are often very enlightening and suggestive. Montgomery and Arnold's attack on Quebec he regards as a foolish enterprise, "for even if the Americans had taken Quebec they could not have held it without an adequate naval force." The condition of the British army is examined critically and ably, and the reasons for its inefficiency are more clearly shown than in any previous work known to the reviewer. The plans of the British ministry are severely criticized. "The mere fact that . . . [they rested their] hopes on the co-operation of the American loyalists was sufficient to distract its councils and to vitiate its plans. Their purpose being vague and undefined, the ministers proceeded without any idea of what an army could or could not do, or of the force that was required for any given object."

Besides the whole course of the American war, the work of the British army in India and at Gibraltar is narrated from 1761 to 1792. The two preceding volumes, which appeared in 1899, constitute together with this volume a connected story of the growth of English military institutions and of the development of tactics in a continuous series of wars. The first 208 pages of Volume I. give a good preliminary sketch up to the establishment of the "New Model." From that point he goes into detail, devoting nearly 400 pages to Cromwell, Charles II., William, and Marlborough. The second volume covers the history of about fifty years to the treaty of Paris.

The volumes are in the main based upon the work of previous writers, usually specialists on limited fields. There is a good sense of proportion shown throughout, the style is clear, and the descriptions of battles and campaigns easy to follow.

C. H. VAN TYNE.